

# theC<sup>o</sup>nnnection

APRIL 2018

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# April is Earth Month

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Join Socket in celebrating Earth Month. April is packed with events to keep you focused on our planet!

## **April 2-8**

National Public Health Week

## **April 14**

Nashville Cherry Blossom Festival at Public Square

## **April 14**

March for Science and Climate Nashville

## **April 15-21**

International Dark Sky Week

## **April 21**

Nashville's Earth Day Celebration in Centennial Park - at this free annual festival, visit the Socket booth for games, coloring books, and maybe even a chance to meet Socket the Dog!

## **April 23-29**

National Environmental Education Week

## **April 27**

Arbor Day

## **April 27-30**

Nashville City Nature Challenge

## **May 1**

Let's Move Nashville Transit Referendum



# Socket Refreshed for 2018

In case you missed it, Socket saw more than his shadow on Groundhog Day, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Socket now has a new tagline, logos, and tons of new website content in eight vital sustainability areas: water, waste, mobility, wellness, food, greenspace, design/build, and energy. Visit [socket.nashville.gov](http://socket.nashville.gov) to check out Socket's fresh new look!



**socket**  
*Nashville's Sustainability Outlet*



**ENERGY**



**WATER**



**WASTE**



**MOBILITY**



**WELLNESS**



**FOOD**



**GREENSPACE**



**DESIGN/BUILD**

# Music City Solar Shines

Nashville Electric Service launched the first solar park in Nashville – Music City Solar. The 17,020 solar panels, slated to be operational this summer, will generate approximately 2 megawatts of clean energy annually. NES customers can purchase subscriptions for the solar electricity generated at <http://gosolarmusiccity.com/>.

Department of General Services is the first Metro Department participating in Music City Solar and has subscribed to 510 panels. In addition, General Services has eight buildings with solar panels with more in the works! Adding more renewables to our energy mix helps clean the air and protect the health of all city residents and visitors.



Conceptual layout plan for Music City Solar park and surrounding uses



# Earth Hour Darkens Courthouse

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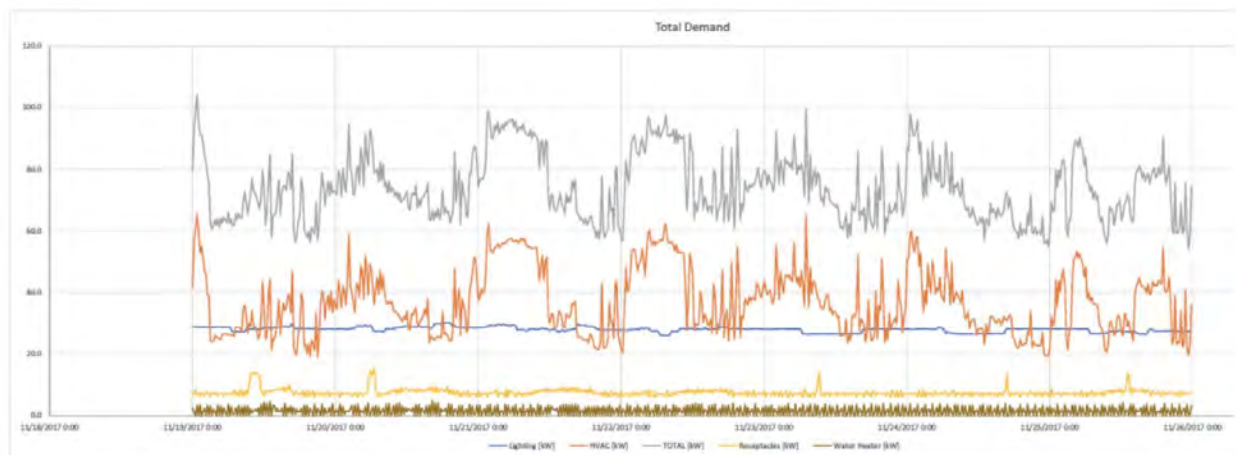
On March 24, the Department of General Services observed the global event **Earth Hour** by turning off all non-essential lights at the Historic Metro Courthouse. This annual event raises awareness of climate change and the need for strong global action.



*Metro Courthouse dark for Earth Hour*

# Measuring Energy Use Intensity at Bellevue Library

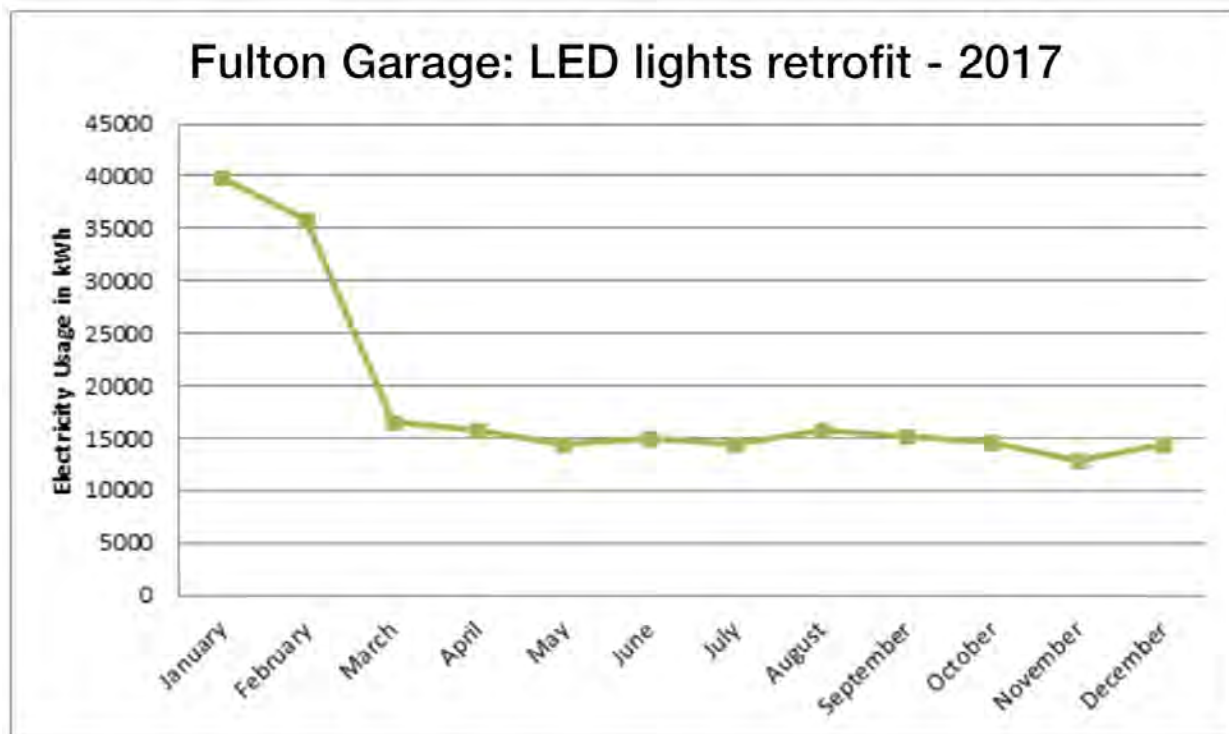
The LEED® Gold Bellevue Library exemplifies how educational and community spaces, public art, and sustainable features can coexist in harmony. In order to further reduce energy use in this facility, the Department of General Services team recently conducted submetering to identify consumption patterns and trends. The review found opportunities to adjust the HVAC settings and lighting schedule. Already, these changes have reduced energy use intensity (EUI) by 15%; predicted savings are \$6,000 annually.



*Energy use at Bellevue Library, prior to adjustments*

# Lighting Upgrades Pay for Themselves

The Department of General Services continues to upgrade to LED lighting in its facilities. One of the projects was replacing the lighting at Fulton Campus Garage Parking lot where the payback for the energy efficiency investment is estimated to be 7.7 years. The retrofit resulted in a 45% energy savings annually!



*Monthly energy savings as a result of lighting upgrades at Fulton Campus garage*

# Commerce Street Garage Improvements

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Have you noticed the colorful new façade on the parking structure at Commerce Street and 6th Avenue downtown? Inside, finishing touches are being made to this large renovation/construction project. Lighting throughout the garage is being retrofitted to more energy efficient fixtures leading to reduced energy consumption and more comfortable environment for visitors using the garage. The new garage will add 351 new parking spaces by adding two levels to the existing parking deck. A total of 1,384 parking spaces will be available for use by Renaissance Hotel, Nashville Downtown Partnership, and Nashville Public Library.



*Commerce street parking garage*



# Let's Move Nashville!

On May 1, Davidson County voters will decide whether to fund a comprehensive transportation system for the city. Metro's Transportation Solution is Metro's in-depth plan for a multi-modal system of interconnected bus, light rail, driving, biking and walking options. Learn more about [the plan](#), see a [sample ballot](#), and find [early voting locations](#). Early voting is available April 11 through April 26. Your voice is critical in helping Nashville become a city with transportation options for all!



# Engage with Socket

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There are many ways to connect with Socket this Earth Month!

- Check out our [website](#) for new blogs and events and follow us on social media for all the latest.
- Visit the Socket booth at the Nashville Cherry Blossom Festival and the Nashville Earth Day Festival.
- Schedule an interactive sustainability workshop for your Metro department or private business.

If you would like to schedule a free workshop, volunteer, or learn more, please contact Sustainability and Outreach Manager Jennifer Westerholm at [Jennifer.Westerholm@nashville.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Westerholm@nashville.gov) or call at 615-862-5043. Happy Earth Month!



*Left: Metro Planning Department staff win prizes. Right: More than 50 Barge Design employees go green.*